Request to modify Annapurna Yojana by Karnataka Government

853. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Karnataka has requested for modifying the 'Annapurna Yojana' so as to provide 10 Kgs. of foodgrains per month free of cost to all destitutes aged over 65 years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) and (b) The Annapurna Scheme, alongwith the National Social Assistance Programme comprising the National Old Age Pension Scheme and the National Family Benefit Scheme, has been transferred to the State Plan with effect from the financial year, 2002-03. The funds for the transferred schemes will be released by the Ministry of finance as Additional Central Assistance to the State Plan and the States/UTs would have the requisite flexibility in the choice and implementation of the schemes.

The Government of Karnataka had requested for modifying the 'Annapurna Yojana' by extending it to all persons who are already covered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme when the scheme was being administered as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Impact of rural development schemes after merger

854. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent has the merging of different rural development schemes improved the performance of the rural development delivery system;

(b) what was the percentage reach/spread of the delivery system when it was done through multi scheme system; and

(c) what is it at present under Single Umbrella Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) During the year 1999-2000, the erstwhile schemes of Rural Development namely, the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) the Training of Rural Youth for Self-employment (TRYSEM), the Development of women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), the Supply of Improve Tool Kits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), the Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) and the Million Wells Schemes (MWS) were merged into a single holistic scheme called the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). The merger of these schemes have substantially improved the rural development delivery system as a group approach is preferred under the new scheme compared to individual approach in the erstwhile schemes. Since the concept and design of the new scheme is different, the reach/ spread of this scheme cannot be compared with the erstwhile schemes.

There is no Single Umbrella Scheme of Rural Development. While (the erstwhile) schemes of the Employment Assurance Scheme and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana have been merged into the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana with effect from 25th September, 2001, the new scheme still has two separate streams. It is, however, too early to assess the reach of the new scheme.

New job guarantee scheme

855. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new job guarantee scheme for the benefit of persons in the hundred most undeveloped districts; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed scheme and the time-frame by when the same is to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) In the Budget Speech 2002-03, the Finance Minister made an announcement for launching Jai Prakash Rozgar Guarantee Yojana to provide employment to the unemployed in the most distressed districts of the country. To prepare guidelines for the scheme and to design modalities/mechanisms for its implementation, a Task Force under Chairmanship of Minister of Rural Development has been set up.